

MUSIC
MASTERS

Musicians of Change 2025-2026 Cohort

Delivered in partnership with



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Introducing



Agne Burbaite

Main/other instruments

Flute, piano, recorder

What do you do

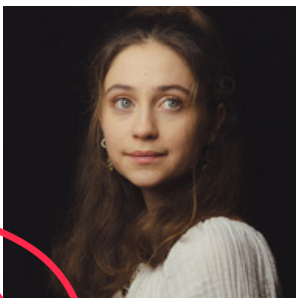
I am based in Camberwell and teach around London. My current work includes Croydon Music & Arts, THAMES as well as James Allen Saturday School for the Performing Arts. I teach Flute, Piano, Recorder/Fife as well as Aural, Theory and General Musicianship Classes. I also regularly cover at Camden Music.

Who/what inspires you

I am inspired by the initiative of making high quality education available for every child no matter their background or financial situation. I believe that education is a key to having a forward looking society that would make the living conditions better for the generations ahead.

What matters to you most

The most important aspect of my work is being able to effectively support every child in their early development. This is both by delivering engaging musical education and by creating safe space for every pupil to explore who they are.



Eliza Burkitt

Main/other instruments

Violin

What do you do

I currently work in Redbridge, giving group tuition and running ensembles in state primary schools and teaching one-to-one at the music hub!

Who/what inspires you

The children I work with! They're so creative, curious and fun- three things I need to remind myself to be when making music too. Organisations such as music masters and the Benedetti Foundation really help to embody this too- their approach is so joyful and inspiring to watch and learn from.

What matters to you most

A commitment to the quality of musical education for every child is really important to me; having attended a state school, I didn't until starting music college how much the delivery of music is dependent on the type of school children attend, coupled with where they grow up. I want to be part of a movement of change that helps to make music accessible to all, in an inspiring and fun way!



Michael Whittaker

Main/other instruments

Viola, violin, conductor

What do you do

I teach most days in the week at schools around my local borough. I combine this with taking two ensembles and organising concerts and events for my local music service.

Who/what inspires you

I'm inspired by my teachers who guided me when some gave up. Also by children who seem to understand the importance of music in our lives.

What matters to you most

My two sons and music. They're the only things that lift my mood.



Amy Bache

Main/other instruments

Violin, voice, piano, ukulele, bass guitar

What do you do

I teach music in a primary school in east London. Mostly classroom music and some WCET violin lessons. I also some teach individual violin and piano lessons. I run a choir and a small ensemble as after school clubs.

Who/what inspires you

My mum - she is an amazing pianist and a wonderful teacher. She is a huge inspiration to me.

Nicola Benedetti - I remember seeing her on BBC young musician of the year and finding her playing captivating ever since. She does a lot of work in music education after setting up her own foundation.

What matters to you most

My family and friends.



Gareth Henderson

Main/other instruments

Guitar

What do you do

Peripatetic Guitar/Ukulele teacher for Shropshire Music Service

Who/what inspires you

People with the ability to evoke emotion and create positive energy through music/art.

What matters to you most

My Family, Friends, Music & Dogs.



James Whittle

Main/ other instruments

Cello, clarinet, piano, ukulele, guitar, voice, will give anything a go

What do you do

Music Teacher and Subject Lead, St Joseph's Specialist Trust:

I am the Music Teacher at a school and residential setting in Cranleigh, Surrey, for 5-19 year old autistic young people. We have c. 65 students, 10 of which live on site. I do class lessons for all students and 1:1s with certain students. We have a Music Therapist at school but no peripatetics due to room/space. The 1:1s I run range from social/communicative/creative development to more standard tuition of composition/voice/piano/drums (currently) or pursuing an entry level qualification in performing or composing. I run an annual Creative Arts Festival and support the religious life of the school (it's Catholic) with Singing Assemblies, Nativity, etc.

Learning Support Tutor, Royal Academy of Music:

For 2 days/week I am in London supporting students 1:1 in: improving study skills; developing planning and organisation; understanding and managing any learning difference, disability or health condition alongside their course. I work with neurodivergent and neurotypical students who both do and do not have Personal Learning Plans and diagnoses of any of the above. Typically though I do work with a lot of students with ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and mental health challenges. I am a trained Mental Health First Aider at the Academy.

N.B. I live in a village called Pulborough in West Sussex - on the tip of the flood plains north of the South Downs.

Freelance music practitioner, self-employed:

The only freelance work I do currently is an after-school Music Club for the residential students at St Joseph's. This is basically a relaxed group whereby I set up various options and bring the young people into the space with a variety of approaches, leading to group music-making. Previously I have done things like run a choir for SEND teenagers at Cast theatre in Doncaster; led inclusive sessions for SEND ages 6-15 at Mind the Gap in Bradford; been MD for various projects such as street theatre Victorian Carol Singers.

Composer / improviser / conductor:

I am a composer by training (MA and PhD). My PhD was all about collaborative devising music-theatre - making choreographed performances of abstract or sometimes highly poetic music. I love exploring sounds, finding new chords and paths, building on shared ideas.





James Whittle

That's also partly why I love teaching and doing the jobs I do: being able to work more closely with fewer students; working hard to understand what the student needs and facilitate their learning/progress.

I have also run a contemporary classical music ensemble (Late Music Ensemble, based in York). Through that and The Chimera Ensemble (also York) conducted UK and world premieres of music by Beat Furrer, Kaija Saariaho, Ben Gaunt, Roger Marsh, and others.

Who/what inspires you

Who inspires me -

My family and friends, especially my daughter, who is 2 and a half and likes to sing 'let it go, let it go, let it go' on repeat while mashing the piano. I particularly admire my sister's honesty and sense of justice, and one of my best friend's resilience and kindness.

My Head of Creative Arts at St Joseph's, Kath Hitchings. She advocates for creativity and the importance of the arts through workshops, consulting and projects nationally. In my first years at St Joseph's we ran conferences for teachers - 'Restorative Creativity' and 'Student Voice and Creativity'.

My favourite artist, Björk. I love her edgy, genre-pushing, polystylistic, maximalist, unpredictable, visceral music, and her pinpoint poetic songwriting.

I did some brilliant trauma-informed practice training with Darren Abrahams a year ago and that was probably some of the most inspiring training I've ever had. Similarly the Drama Therapist at St Joseph's led a session on developmental trauma in children and I found that so helpful for understanding our students more deeply. The St Joseph's community really is like a family. Similarly the MHFA training for Academy. Associated charities and advocacy/campaigns inspire me because I feel/am reminded that good people are out there doing good things.

What else inspires me - surprising sounds found any- and everywhere. Words. Poetry (I write occasionally).

What matters to you most

Empathy, active and nonjudgemental listening, kindness, compassion, patience, understanding. Having a voice. Helping others to have a voice. Creativity. Collaboration. Being part of a team. Making things. Humour. Connection. My family. Love. Downtime, solo. Reflective time. MUSIC!



Larisa Sceadei

Main/ other instruments

Percussion, piano

What do you do

I am the Lead Percussion and Keyboards Teacher for Tri-borough Music Hub, based at the Lyric in Hammersmith (London). I teach whole class music lessons and assemblies in primary schools, as well as drum kit lessons in secondary schools. I lead the Percussion Ensemble at the Saturday Music School and co-lead the Breakout Band Ensemble with mixed instruments at the Lyric. I also deliver family drop-in music sessions at a children's centre in Hackney and work with deaf children in a school in Islington.

Who/what inspires you

I draw my inspiration from a multitude of sources, primarily from music, but also from nature, personal experiences, emotions, the work of other musicians and fellow teachers, as well as from everyday people that I meet and interact with, because everyone and everything around us has something to show and teach us.

What matters to you most

My passion for music and passing on my knowledge to others, as well as the joy that comes from helping them achieve their potential.



Tom Neale

Main/ other instruments

Alto saxophone, tenor sax, flute, clarinet, classical guitar

What do you do

I am a woodwind peripatetic and a classical guitar tutor in select Primary and Secondary schools around North Cornwall. I am also involved in Cornwall Music Service Trust's First Access teaching program, which delivers whole class instrumental tuition to Y3 and Y4 students. I am also a performing freelance musician with many gigs in different settings across the year.

Who/what inspires you

I am inspired by learning, which is why I have affinity with teaching. I want to be in top shape on my main instrument (jazz saxophone) and also practice my other instruments too. Having time to practice is something I really value and want to keep consistent in order to deliver a great performance whether it be in a musical or teaching setting.

I am also inspired by the ocean and the natural landscape of the country. This is where I will spend my free time to go surfing or running.

What matters to you most

My family. Leading a healthy life and having a sensible balance between work and home life.



Diana Sheach

Main/ other instruments

French horn

What do you do

Hi! I'm a brass tutor and freelance French Horn player, working across a variety of settings. I teach students of all ages and levels, and I regularly perform in both classical and commercial music. You'll often find me playing with orchestras around the UK and internationally or on West End shows. I love the variety and energy that each project brings.

Who/what inspires you

I've always been inspired by the energy of live performance and the incredible variety of french horn and brass playing out there, whether it's classic orchestral recordings or Billy May's Big Fat Brass albums. I love how versatile the instruments can be.

What matters to you most

What matters to me most as a music educator is seeing the real, lasting impact music can have on students. It's not just about grades or becoming a professional, music builds confidence, creativity, and personal growth. I love the individual moments in one to one lessons where students start to believe in themselves, and I'm equally inspired by the progress they make when playing together in ensembles, where so much development and joy can take place.



Alys Bailey-Wood

Main/ other instruments

Harp, piano, voice

What do you do

I'm a Music Associate (peripatetic teacher) with Theatr Clwyd Music Trust in Flintshire. I teach Harp, beginners Piano and beginners Voice as well as group lessons called First Experiences. In September I will also begin to teach in our SEN Schools so this course couldn't have come at a better time!

Who/what inspires you

I was taught through the music service so my first harp teacher is a huge inspiration to me. My main goal is making sure that as many young people are able to be taught and that access to music education is there, because so many children struggle academically and music can be their safe place.

What matters to you most

Giving as many children as many opportunities as possible - everyone deserves exciting opportunities, regardless of background.



Jessie To

Main/ other instruments

Violin

What do you do

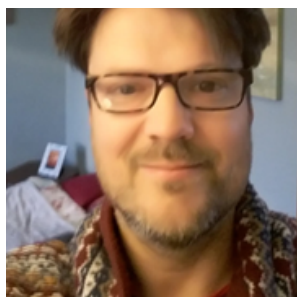
I am a freelance violinist and violin teacher currently, having just graduated from RCM! I've had some experience in small group teaching and ensemble coaching, but have mostly specialised in 1-1.

Who/what inspires you

As a music educator, Sheila Nelson is really inspiring to me, and as a performer, it would have to be Ning Feng and Augustin Hadelich.

What matters to you most

Being able to use my knowledge and skills in music to do good is really important to me, as is fostering a healthy and wholesome educational environment when teaching



Dan Bohane

Main/ other instruments

Guitar, piano, drums, singing and percussion

What do you do

I currently teach whole class music curriculum to all ages from reception up to year 6 and whole class ukulele to year 3. I also teach small group guitar, piano and drum lessons in primary and secondary schools. I deliver some inspiring lessons but do often struggle with behaviour management and lesson content.

Who/what inspires you

I'm currently inspired by Keith Jarrett, a piano improvisation soloist. I love that he produced the worlds best selling live solo piano concert album on a broken piano. His music is very inspirational and his best and worst moments are all laid bare in his recorded solo concerts. This has inspired me to improvise in public on the piano at a local church recently.

What matters to you most

I'm currently working hard on my piano playing and learning basic drums and keeping my guitar playing ticking over. I have taught individual lesson in schools for many years but I'm making a big push into teaching groups. I have always loved teaching individuals, but have felt a need to change and grow in other areas.

It really matters to me have some success in the group teaching area especially curriculum because it's possible to inspire so many people and requires so many skills and so much knowledge and experience.



Harry Nim

Main/ other instruments

Violin

What do you do

I currently teach 1:1/group lessons both privately and through Tri-Borough Music Hub, and deliver whole class violin tuition to a Year 2 class. I also support orchestral rehearsals. I also work part time in the RCM Box Office.

Who/what inspires you

My former teacher Matt! He was my first teacher and has always supported my musical studies growing up. And my friends and students!

What matters to you most

My cats.



Joe Frost

Main/ other instruments

Drums

What do you do

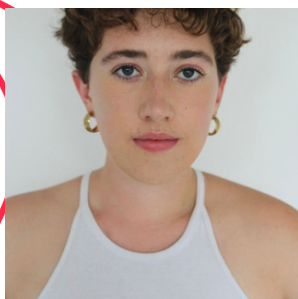
I'm a 1-1 tutor and group percussion ensemble teacher. I also play in 2 bands, one heavier post rock/industrial and another indie rock/pop band.

Who/what inspires you

Being in an environment/community with other likeminded creative people. This is something I've missed since leaving uni, it inspires me because I see a lot of value in watching and talking about your practice and I think you can use it to improve together.

What matters to you most

Family, drums and friends.



Ruby Bowler

Main/ other instruments

Viola, violin, piano

What do you do

My average week consists of KS1/KS2 music curriculum teaching, violin galore at a Music Master's flagship school and many hours with my mini pianists that I teach individually in my studio class!

Who/what inspires you

All my previous teachers which fuelled my love of music. They opened the door to a new world, which not only shaped me as a person, but instilled an aspirational work ethic I hope to keep for life!

What matters to you most

Community, connection and good coffee.



Dan Johns

Main/ other instruments

Trumpet, voice, other brass

What do you do

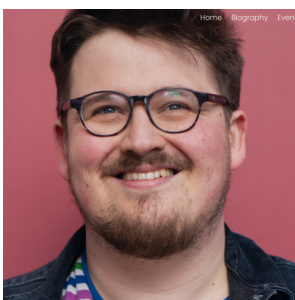
I work for Musica Kirklees where I teach peri and whole class lessons as well as running ensembles in music centres.

Who/what inspires you

My instrumental teacher (Kevin Holbrough) and school music teacher (Martin Kettlewell) inspire me and I wish to recreate for others what they gave me!

What matters to you most

Positivity! I try my best to be positive about whatever I can be in life and think I am happier for it!



Cole Bendall

Main/ other instruments

Conductor, voice (tenor), piano, percussion

What do you do

Choral conductor and educator based in London, currently working with schools, music charities and choral societies/professional choirs in the UK and overseas.

Who/what inspires you

Frequently, I'm inspired by the young people I work with, who demonstrate new and creative ways to undertake my work in ways I never considered!

What matters to you most

My family and close friends, as well as my values and standards of loyalty and determination.



Penny Malcolm

Main/ other instruments

Viola, percussion, violin, piano

What do you do

I'm a peripatetic teaching everywhere from tiny village primary schools to whole classes at secondary.

Who/what inspires you

My own teachers, especially Cynthia. If I can be half as supportive as her I know my students will succeed.

What matters to you most

Family.



Sofia Muniz Mejuto

Main/ other instruments

Violin

What do you do

I'm a violin teacher giving 1:1 lessons in a school in London. In the same school, I am the music teacher of an after school club having around 10 children of 4-5 years old in the classroom. Besides, I work as a steward in LSO St Luke's and I also work in a Spanish Deli Shop on Sundays.

Who/what inspires you

I find teaching really inspiring. Noticing the different personalities children have and learning how to react to each one of them keeps me on alert and makes my job really exciting.

What matters to you most

The wellbeing of the students is really important to me. It doesn't matter how good they are playing the instrument but seeing them enjoying what they do.

